

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY SAYS RAIN WELCOME BUT SAVE WATER AS DROUGHT LINGERS
Announces Water Efficiencies To Save State Government More Than One Million Gallons Yearly

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley said the latest rainfall was welcome and while it raised water levels in lakes and reservoirs, the state is still in a serious drought. He encouraged all citizens to continue saving water and announced efficiency upgrades throughout state government. Water efficiency upgrades have been completed in 49 buildings in the state government complex in Raleigh, which are expected to cut water consumption in state facilities by one million gallons each year.

“People have to take water conservation more seriously,” said Easley. “The level of conservation now is not going to get the job done. More is needed.”

The Facility Management Division of the N.C. Department of Administration handled upgrades to state government complex buildings including those in downtown Raleigh, on Garner Road and Blue Ridge Road.

Improvements include:

- Installation of 1,035 aerators to reduce the flow of water from faucets;
- Replacement of 58 toilet tanks to save 1.9 gallons per flush;
- Installation of 750 water-reducing devices in toilet flush valves, cutting water use by 1.1 gallons per flush, from 3.5 gallons to 2.4 gallons per flush;
- Installation of 212 water-reducing devices in urinals, reducing water use by 2.5 gallons per flush, from 3.5 gallons to 1.0 gallon per flush; and
- Continuous monitoring of water consumption in state buildings for early detection and repair of leaks and to address other issues related to efficiency of water systems.

While rainfall this week has kept the drought from worsening in North Carolina, the federal drought map released today shows the entire state remains in some category of drought. The federal drought monitor listed 39 counties in exceptional drought, 32 in extreme drought, 23 in severe drought and six in a moderate drought.

Even with the recent rainfall, North Carolina's record-breaking drought continues to affect available water supplies. More than 5.5 million people in the state, or 82 percent of the population, who receive water from water systems the state tracks, are subject to mandatory or voluntary water use restrictions.

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